

What You Need to Know about Water Quality Compliance

Did you know?

- > Stormwater runoff pollutes one of our most valuable natural resources, the Tualatin River
- > Regular maintenance of private water quality facilities is required and less costly than deferred maintenance
- > Private water quality facilities can be attractive and provide additional curb appeal to your site
- > The City of Tualatin is invested in providing the support you need to meet your water quality system requirements



What can you expect?

The City of Tualatin is rolling out a private stormwater quality inspection program to ensure that we preserve the integrity of our valuable natural resources and meet the water quality requirements dictated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Currently, the City of Tualatin is responsible for inspecting and enforcing regulations on over 200 private water quality facilities within the city.

After a comprehensive inspection, nearly a quarter of these facilities were categorized as being in either poor or very poor condition.

The primary objective is to bring these deficient facilities into compliance and to provide all private water quality facility owners with the knowledge they need to efficiently operate and

maintain their facilities.

Facility owners will receive an educational packet which will include:

A Facility Info Sheet-includes pertinent information describing the type of stormwater quality facility present on their site.

A Maintenance Checklist- provides the frequency of required system inspections by the facility's owner.

An Inspection Report-provides the owner with the actual results of their system's inspection including pictures and the assessed condition. Also, notes on items requiring maintenance or repair.

A Maintenance List & Compliance Schedule-indicates the items that need immediate attention and the expected compliance date.

Inspection Logs-the facility owner is required to provide documenta-

tion of regular maintenance to the City of Tualatin.

Invasive Weeds and Grasses Brochure-includes color pictures and removal tips for these nuisance plants that can decrease the performance of the stormwater quality facility.

Native Plant Poster-provided by Clean Water Services this poster outlines the ideal plants to replace the invasive weeds and grasses with in your landscaping plans to help reduce the amount of pollution in runoff to our waterways.

On-site inspections will occur at least every four years for facilities in fair, good or excellent condition. Facilities in poor or very poor condition will require a remediation plan from the owner and will be inspected annually until the facility achieves a functional condition.

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Why is it important to maintain my water quality facility?

Your system was designed by a professional engineer to meet certain water quality standards determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Without proper maintenance your system will not operate to the same standards and will cause detrimental effects to natural resources and wildlife.

Please take note of the effects of deferred system maintenance:

Decreased treatment

Odors-animal carcasses, garbage, and stagnant water

Fire hazard-from an accumulation of flammable materials including oil and gas

Flooding-especially upstream in parking lots and drives

Insect Breeding-stagnant water creates an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes

Unightly Areas-an overgrowth of vegetation including invasive weeds and grasses, as well as, from trash and debris

How will this benefit me?

Meeting water quality standards is not only required but also provides these other benefits:

Aesthetics

Thoughtful landscaping, necessary for efficient treatment, can turn an unsightly facility into an attractive facility adding curb appeal and value to your property.

Financial

As mentioned before, meeting

water quality standards is required, and regular maintenance spreads your maintenance costs out over time and actually reduces the overall financial burden of maintaining your facility.

Neighbors

The water you treat either goes directly into the watershed or flows onto your neighbor's property. Remember the Golden Rule and be a good neighbor.

Use of Natural Resources

Remember that we all depend on our natural resources!

Positive Publicity

Get the word out! Let the community know what you're doing to protect our natural resources. We will be doing all we can to make sure your efforts don't go unnoticed.



If maintaining your water quality facility is a new concept, then this is could be your outfall!



This should be your outfall!



What if I can't afford to bring my facility into compliance?

The deferred maintenance costs necessary for some of these water quality facilities could pose potential financial obstacles to some facility owners.

There are several outlets that can be taken at this time to help offset some of the costs you might incur depending on the type of system you have. Here are a few ideas/resources to try:

Organize an opportunity for the community to help. The health of our watershed is important to many groups and you can provide them with an opportunity to make a difference. Some services they could provide include: Landscaping labor Fundraising

You may have to offer up some publicity or lemonade, but it would be well worth it.

Work out a barter with a company whose services you need.

Perhaps a landscaping company who for the use of some advertising space in your newsletter, a referral or a sign on your property may offer some discount on their services.

Organize a program whereby a group of facility owners contract with a vacuum truck contractor, and as more facility owners join the program, the per-service cost will go down.

Low Interest Loans

Grants

The City of Tualatin is eager to

assist you in finding ways to bring your facility into compliance. Please let us know if you require assistance and we will do our best to help!

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Interesting Facts about Water Quality

- ◆ Water Quality came into the spotlight in 1969 when the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught on fire, due to oil accumulations on the river's surface. It was at least the thirteenth time it had happened. This event largely contributed to the passing of the Clean Water Act by Congress in 1972.
- ◆ Water Quality standards vary from state to state and body of water to body of water. Standards are based on the desired use of the body of water, whether it's for recreation, fishing, drinking, ect...
- ◆ The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for regulating water quality in the state of Oregon.
- ◆ While protecting the Tualatin River from runoff pollution we are also protecting the area's drinking water source.

What are the maintenance expectations for my water quality facility?

Each water quality facility is uniquely designed to site conditions including quantity of pollutants, type of pollutants, and the volume of stormwater to be treated. Consequently, each facility requires a unique maintenance schedule.

The expectation is that your facility will be maintained to meet the designed treatment standard. You are expected to maintain an **Inspection Log** (from the Education Packet provided) and to produce it upon request to inspectors or

representatives with the City of Tualatin or Clean Water Services.

The Education Packet you were provided includes a **Maintenance Checklist** which will give a recommended schedule to follow. It may need to be adjusted if you notice your facility needs more frequent attention.

Review your **Facility Info Sheet**, also included in the education packet, for a brief description of what items indicate maintenance is required.

If you have any questions or need more assistance please contact us and we can guide you through developing a site specific maintenance plan.



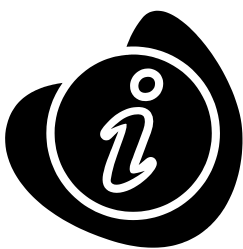
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Where can I find additional resources?

A wealth of information can be found from various sources depending on what type of information you need.

Regulations and Historical information regarding the Clean Water Act can be found through the Environmental Protection Agency.

The basis for the City of Tualatin's water quality requirements comes from Clean Water Services (see Section 4.05 of the Design and Construction Standards for Water Quality Treatment Requirements)



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Taco Bell Stormwater Facility
@ 17873 SW McEwan Rd., Tigard, OR 97224

Go by and take a look at the Taco Bell Rain Gardens located at 17873 SW McEwan Rd., Tigard, OR 97224. These rain gardens treat 100% of the site's stormwater runoff and simultaneously provide all of the city's landscaping requirements. The facility is artistically landscaped with appropriate plant materials and with proper maintenance will continue to provide years of treatment and aesthetic value!



Tualatin, Oregon